

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of currently pending Claims 1-6 is earnestly solicited in light of the above amendments.

As recited in Claim 1, as amended, which incorporates the added limitation of original Claim 2 (now canceled), the subject invention is directed to a worm drive clamp comprising a work drive member with a spiral thread, a head above its body, a pawled portion below the body, and a knob below the pawled portion. The clamp also comprises a flexible strap having a housing at one end. The housing has a ratcheted recess for engaging the pawled portion of the body and a through-hole in its hollow wall to allow penetration by the knob so that the bottom wall is held between the knob and the pawled portion.

Original Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Hill in view of Georgeopoulos, but this rejection is respectfully traversed. It is asserted that Hill discloses an element analogous to the knob claimed in Claim 2, but this is not correct. Although the screw 5 in Hill does have a portion that extends beyond the ratcheted portion 22, there is no disclosure that said portion comprises a knob such that the bottom wall of the housing is held between the knob and a separate portion of the screw. At most the identified portion in Hill merely projects or extends beyond the ratcheted portion, but it serves no function to hold the bottom wall of the housing, as recited in Claim 1 as amended. Structure serving this function is disclosed neither in Hill,

Georgeopoulos, nor any of the other prior art of record. Accordingly, amended Claim 1 is neither taught nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Claims 3 and 5 depend from Claim 1 as amended and are patentable for at least the same reasons as set forth with respect to Claim 1.

New independent claims 7 and 8 are presented. These claims present the additional subject matter of cancelled Claims 4 and 6, respectively, but do not include the subject matter of original Claim 2. Nonetheless, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of these new claims is neither taught nor made obvious by the prior art of record.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment with regard to any fees associated with the filing of these documents to deposit account no.: 22-0585.



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